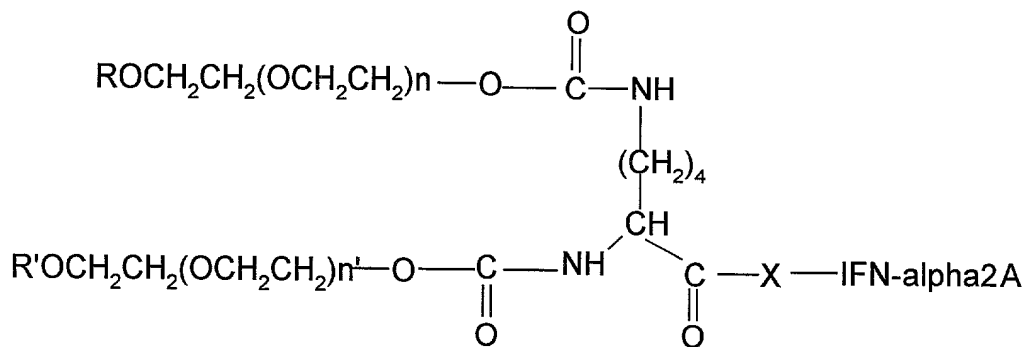


[illegible]

5           2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$  conjugate is administered in in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein at least one daily dose of  
ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of PEG-IFN- $\alpha$   
conjugate.

6. A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infections comprising  
5 administering a PEG-IFN- $\alpha$  conjugate having the formula:



R and R' are methyl, X is NH, and n and n' are individually or both either 420 or 520,

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of about 400 to about 1200 mg daily.

9. The method according to claim 6 wherein at least one daily dose of ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein substantially all of the ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of PEG-IFN- $\alpha$  conjugate.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein from about 150 $\mu$ g to about 250 $\mu$ g of the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered once a week for at least one week and from about 800 mg to about 1200 mg of ribavirin is administered daily during the same at least one week the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered.

12. The method according to claim 8 wherein about 180 $\mu$ g of the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered once a week for 48 weeks and from about 400 mg to about 600 mg of ribavirin is administered twice daily during the same 48 weeks the PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ 2A conjugate is administered.

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